

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are amended and claim 8 is canceled. Support for the amendments may be found in, for example, the specification and the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-8 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, the subject matter of claim 8 is incorporated into claim 2, and claim 8 is canceled. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-7 is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the meaning of the phrase "mixing 0.1 to 3.5 mass% of the Si powder" is not clear. By this Amendment, claim 3 is amended to recite, in part: "mixing the Si powder and the Fe alloy powder to obtain a mixed powder, whereby an amount of the Si powder in the mixed powder is 0.1 to 3.5 mass %." Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 55-113803 to Takeaki ("Takeaki") in view of the admitted known prior art on page 8, paragraph [0020] of the specification. Applicants respectfully note that claim 1 was canceled by the Preliminary Amendment submitted September 25, 2006. Applicants therefore believe the Office Action intended to reject claim 2 under §103(a). As discussed above, claim 2 is

amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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